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'Niles TV' hits the Web

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The Village of Niles launched "Niles TV" last week, making it easy for residents visiting the village Web site to access videos from major town events.

Featured videos include the installation of the Coca Cola Community Rain Garden, the Fourth of July Parade, and an introduction to the Niles Teen Center.

George Van Geem, village manager, said the Niles TV project grew out of a desire to communicate with residents as often as possible.

"Video is, in my mind, really a more interesting way to do that," he said. "We want to be as informative as possible and video is way more interesting than a blurb or a blog."

Van Geem said the project is done entirely in-house. Village employees go to local events and create the videos, edit them, and post them to the Web site.

"It might not be as polished as others right away but we are focused on Niles," he said. "Eventually we'd like to have videos about the fitness center, snow plowing, or our other taxing bodies like the library and the park district. It's just another way to communicate with our residents."

Niles TV is available at www.vniles.com.